

Aniin, Migizi indizhnicoz, aawaziii indoodem, Wikoonametawingasing indoonjiba!

Boozhoo, I am Karen Washington, our tribe's Education/Youth Director. My educational background includes Haskell Indian Nations University (Business Administration), LCOOC (Casino Management), UW-Superior (Gaming Management), and I graduated in 2020 with my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. I am proud to acknowledge I am a "Littlepipe", having been taught the traditional ways of my ancestors. I am rooted in traditional practices and beliefs that follow that name.

I have dedicated my life to working for our tribe. My experience includes five years as a GM + nine years in various casino departments. I have been directing the education of our people since 2011. I feel uniquely qualified to serve you as an elected Tribal Council Representative. I am proud to have education as my cornerstone and gaming as my backbone! If given the opportunity, I know I can fulfill my duty to education along with accepting the challenges that come as an elected official.

The St. Croix Tribe can heal through our faith in the creator and strengthened leadership that is focused on education as prevention. We have all been profoundly affected by the drug epidemic raging throughout our communities. I support lowering the blood quantum because it would provide expanded educational services, additional access to college education/technical schooling, and give more youth the ability to practice treaty rights, which many so desire. Our youth is our future, we must teach our culture through traditions and ceremonies; this would work towards eradicating addiction in our people.

My advice to our membership when choosing candidates would be to remember YOU are the employer choosing YOUR new hires. Consider what your applicants have done for the tribe in the past, where they have worked, what their educational background is, and where their hearts lie. Education may not be a priority for some, but I believe it is the key component for stability and health in our communities well into the future. If given the opportunity to serve the people, I encourage those who are elected to be both transparent and accountable, and to take the time to learn about government, the enterprises, and our rights as sovereign people.

Vote Karen Washington for Maple Plain on June 10th! Migwech.